



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I'm a RT Manager for a durable medical equipment (DME) company. We have numerous patients on oxygen who go to their MD office for oxygen saturation tests for continued coverage on Medicare. The problem is when the patient, who is on oxygen, goes to their MD visit and gets "re-tested", the MD office more often than not does not remove their oxygen prior to initiating the test. (Medicare requires that the test be on room air to confirm the medical necessity for continued coverage and payment of their oxygen.) I know that you need to remove the oxygen for at least 10-15 minutes prior to initiating the oximetry, but the MD offices are not aware of the proper procedure. Does the RCB have anything on file that I could use to give to the MD office that states how to perform a room air oximetry/ABG on a patient who is on continuous oxygen? (E.g., "removing the oxygen " and "how many minutes prior to the room air test the oxygen need to be removed".)

Response: In response to your inquiry described above, please be advised that the RCB is unable to assist you in this type of procedure. For further information and clarification on the guidelines stated in your inquiry, please contact the American Association for Respiratory Care and request a copy of the Clinical Practice Guidelines dealing with this issue:

American Association for Respiratory Care
11030 Ables Lane
Dallas TX 95229
(972) 243-2272

Reference # 2001-C-25